



Office of Congressman Jeff Flake

News Release

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Congressman Flake Urges Medicare Conferees to Apply a Means Test to Prescription Drug Benefit

*Conferees Needs to Consider Options to Curb Fiscally
Irresponsible Drug Benefit*

Washington, D.C. - Arizona Congressman Jeff Flake, who represents the state's Sixth District, today will offer a motion on the floor of the House of Representatives instructing conferees on H.R. 1, which adds a prescription drug benefit to Medicare, to use means testing in order to control the massive cost of the bill.

"It's going to be impossible to ever achieve a balanced budget with this prescription drug bill," said Flake. **"If the conferees produce a bill that resembles either the House or Senate version, we're going to be seeing permanent budget deficits."**

"Congress has a responsibility to introduce measures that would curb this incredibly irresponsible drug benefit, and I believe that means testing is a good place to start. It makes little sense to force the average taxpayer to pay for Bill Gates and Ted Turner's prescription drug benefit."

"Our goal ought to be to reform Medicare to ensure its solvency, but one can only assume that the goal of this plan, in its current form, is to buy votes."

A vote on the motion is expected on Tuesday, October 7.

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